intrusion, land subsidence, and artificial recharge and conjunctive use of ground water resources. In addition, salt buildup due to agricultural, municipal, and industrial uses and improperly constructed or abandoned wells may be a significant problem.

Ground Water Management and Protection

California does not have statewide comprehensive ground water management laws. Management is practiced largely by local agencies, using powers provided under state enabling legislation. The California Department of Water Resources is the principal state-level water supply and planning agency. Its role in ground water is one of providing advice and technical support to local agencies, collecting data, and conducting investigations.

The responsibility to protect California's ground water against toxic or hazardous waste pollution is divided three ways among the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), the California Department of Health Services (DOES), and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (DFA). The SWRCB oversees the quality of surface and ground water under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. The DOHS controls a number of chemical-handling activities that can have an impact on ground water quality under the California Hazardous Waste Control Act of 1972, the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA), and state and federal Superfund cleanup activities. The DFA regulates and administers controls on pesticide applications, pursuant to the California Food and Agricultural Code. Local regulation is implemented by the county agricultural commissioners under authority of the DFA director and county ordinances. Pesticide use is also restricted by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), which is administered by the EPA.

SWRCB

The SWRCB protects ground and surface water quality through a series of Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans) for the various geographic areas, which are administered by nine regional boards. Each Basin Plan assigns beneficial uses to ground and surface waters and places limits on ambient levels of total dissolved solids, nitrate, chloride, on gross organics by testing their chemical oxygen demand (COD), and others—as needed to protect those beneficial uses. The regional boards place discharge limits on point and nonpoint sources of waste water that could adversely affect surface or ground water. The California Water Code allows the SWRCB to file

